Intro. 

A. The Pharisees, the scribes, and the lawyers despised Jesus.
   1. They believed Him to be a blasphemer.
   2. They plotted to find an accusation against Him.
   3. They were out of their minds with anger.

B. He refused to be intimidated by them.
   1. He continued to implement God’s plan.
   2. He continued to heal all who came to Him.

I. Jesus Continued To Teach His Disciples

A. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.
   1. Jesus looked His disciples in the face.
   2. This was a signal to them of the seriousness of His teachings.
   3. This poverty is of the soul. Matt. 5:3

"Confidently joyous (are) poor (πτωχοίς = crouching, cringing in the manner of beggars, hence, begging, beggarly;) in Spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

4. Those who beg are open handed. Receive whatever is offered them. Those who are poor in Spirit are hungrying and thirsting for spiritual information.

B. A question now faces us.
   1. To whom do these verses speak?
   2. Are they for Israel only?
   3. Are they millennial only?
   4. Does God expect us to live up to them?
C. Let us be joyfully confident when we become the enemy, for the Son of man's sake.

1. When men shall hate you.
2. "and when they shall separate you from their company." ἀποσύνεντω = "to set off by bounds," "to limit off"
3. "and shall reproach you." ὀρθοσύνεντω = to defame, to cast in one's teeth, to chew out
4. "and cast out your name as evil"
5. "for the Son of man's sake".

D. To be punished by the world is to be put in good company.

1. "Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for,
2. "behold, your reward is in heaven"
3. "for in like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."

IV. The Future Consequences Of A Bad Decision.

A. We should make good decisions.

1. We must base them on truth.
2. They will lead us to be loyal to Jesus.
3. These good decisions may lead to our present suffering. Not always, but generally so.
4. There will be future good.

B. Bad decisions, on the other hand, may lead to present prosperity. However, they will always lead to future calamities.

1. "But was (an expression of grief) unto you that are rich! For ye have received your consolation." ὀδηγέω = to hold off from, to have all that is one's due, to be marked, paid in full;
2. παράκλησις = a calling near (comforter)
you will have gotten all of the comfort God will ever give you. It is "paid in full."